

**REMARKS**

Claims 4-5 and 10-20 have been canceled, and claims 1-3 and 6-9 have been amended.

Claims 1-3 and 6-9 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

A new abstract is enclosed. A proposed drawing amendment was submitted with the original Amendment on December 4, 2003.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1. A proposed drawing amendment is enclosed herewith amending FIG. 1 to include text in various boxes.
2. An amended Abstract is enclosed herewith.
3. The transitional phrase has been added.
4. The Official Action alleges that the foreign priority document has not yet been provided. However, the prior document was submitted to the USPTO on December 6, 2001 along with the signed declaration to complete the application filing process. These documents were submitted via USPS First class mail with a certificate of mailing. A postcard accompanied the documents and the postcard was date stamped by the USPTO on January 17, 2002.

Enclosed with the original Amendment filed December 4, 2004 were: (i) a copy of the Completion of Filing Requirements Letter submitted to the USPTO with a certificate of mailing on December 6, 2001 referring to the German priority document as being enclosed; (ii) a copy of the

postcard data stamped by the USPTO indicating the German priority document was received by the USPTO; and (iii) a copy of the cover page of the priority document. Acknowledgment that the priority, document was received by the USPTO is respectfully requested.

**5.** The statement is noted.

**6.** The undersigned notes that the cited reference has not been entered since it is not in the English language.

**7.** Claim 9 has been amended and claim 20 has been canceled. Claim 6 has been amended.

**8.** The equation has been relabeled as “4” in the attached amendment to the specification.

**9-11.** Claims 19 and 20 have been cancelled.

**12.** Claims 1-18 currently stand rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention.

Claims 1-3 and 6-9 have been amended.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3 and 6-9 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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